

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 15 and continuing to Page 22, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As the recording density of hard disk drives has increased, the write track width and the read track width of thin-film magnetic heads have been required to be reduced. An experiment was therefore performed to determine the effect of the overlap amount L_0 of one of the electrode layers 6 of the magnetoresistive device on the read track width. In this experiment a magnetoresistive device in which the two electrode layers 6 did not overlap the top surface of the MR element 5, as shown in FIG. 7, that is, the overlap amount L_0 is zero, was fabricated. In addition, four types of magnetoresistive devices in which the two electrode layers 6 overlapped the top surface of the MR element 5, as shown in FIG. 8, were fabricated. The overlap amounts L_0 of these four types were 0.05 μm , 0.10 μm , 0.15 μm , and 0.20 μm , respectively. The number of each of those five types of magnetoresistive devices fabricated were twenty 200. The outputs of these devices and effective magnetic read track widths (magnetic read widths) were obtained.